

WEST TEXAS COLLECTION

Colonel Robert E. Byrns Collection

1 linear foot

Record ID: 1991-2

Donor: Colonel Robert E. Byrns

Acquisition: Gift, 1991

Access: Open for research

Restrictions: Audio tapes must be used in the reading room; no reproductions allowed.

Citation: Colonel Robert E. Byrns Collection, West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX

Administrative/Biographical History:

Colonel Robert E. Byrns was born 14 January 1910 in Belfield, North Dakota. His father was a railroading man, and so the Byrns family moved around quite a bit during Robert's childhood. He attended and graduated from Colorado Teachers College in 1933 with a bachelor's degree in English.

Byrns spent the following years teaching in Colorado. During his tenure there he met and married Lily Frederiksen (in 1937). Byrns began his military career during this time as well. He had joined the Colorado National Guard during college, and he later requested active duty with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Due to growing tensions in Nazi Germany, Byrns was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia in 1940 to serve in the Second Armored Division.

When the U.S. was finally entrenched in World War II, Byrns had become a Captain, and he spent a few years at the Armor Center in Fort Knox, Kentucky, training recruits. In 1944, he served in the South Pacific with the Army Amphibious Forces.

Following the war Byrns continued to serve in the Army. He was sent to Fort Knox, the Army Arctic Test Center in Alaska, and Fort Monroe in Virginia, where his and Lily's sons Robert Jr. and Stephen were born. After serving at Ft. Monroe, the Byrns family was sent to Copenhagen, Denmark. Lily, a Danish-American, was fluent in Danish, as were the boys, and they attended Danish School. Colonel Byrns, however, "struggled along as best he could" with the little Danish he learned.

Byrns retired from the army after 28 years of service, and he went on to obtain his master's degree in history from Texas A & M University. The Byrns family moved to San Angelo in 1964, where Byrns began a new career as a professor at San Angelo College. He also served as an elder at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church.

Lily Byrns died in 1988 of Lou Gehrig's disease. Byrns remarried on 28 May 1989 to James Bird, a close family friend. Colonel Byrns died on 5 November 1999.

Scope and Content:

Collection contains 46 issues of *Frontier Times*; an alphabetical list of 1948 Tom Green County poll tax payers; Texas Military history; a scrapbook of newspaper clippings about 1930's Barnhart, Texas; 7 newspapers from 1862-1889; 7 cassettes of interviews pertaining to railroads; and papers about small towns in West Texas by Byrns' students.

Arrangement:

Box Description

- 1-2** Frontier Times magazine
Includes the following issues:
1926: February-June, August-December
1927: January-June, November
1928: January, April, May, July-November
1929: January-April, July, September, October
1930: May, June, September, November-December
1931: January, April-June
1932: February-June
- 3** 7 oral history tapes: interviews with railroad men:
Rush McIntosh, 27 December 1973
Richard ("Pop" or "Dick") Dunstone Freeman, 29 February 1972 (on two tapes)
Fred W. Ater, 2 March 1972
Walter F. Anderson, 24 February 1972
R.D. Freeman, 13 December 1968
R.L. "Rush" McIntosh, 22 February 1972
- 5 newspapers/magazines:
West Texas Business magazine, August/September 1985
San Angelo Standard Times, Centennial Issue, 1984
U.S. News and World Report magazine, 10 February 1986 (concerning the *Challenger* accident)
Milwaukee Journal, May 1957 (concerning Senator McCarthy's death)
San Angelo Standard Times, 23 January 1973 am and pm editions (concerning the death of former President Johnson)
- 4** Includes:
Texas Military History journal, November 1962
Siegel, Cooper & Co.'s *Popular Portfolio of the World's Columbian Exposition & Principle Places of Amusement*, Chicago 1893
1948 Tom Green County poll tax payers, complete alphabetical list
Scrapbook kept by Mary Katherine Shanks of newspaper clippings concerning Barnhart, TX in the 1930s

Papers by Byrns' students (located in the Vertical Files, V.F.)

Texas Topics:

--- "Rankin, Texas" (Upton Co. V.F.)

Ables, Jan "Brady, Texas" (McCulloch Co. V.F.)
Alaniz, Andrew "Hermleigh" (Scurry Co. V.F.)
Anderson, Lee "Camp Hudson" (Bexar Co. V.F.)
Archer, Maurice "Drought Years of 1952-1953 in Dawson County, Texas" (Dawson County V.F.)
Balliew, Cindy "Albany" (Shackelford Co. V.F.)
Beaty, Ginger "Albany" (Shackelford Co. V.F.)
Beaver, Gina "Light Dawns on Fluvanna" (Scurry Co. V.F.)
Beaver, Gina "Snyder, Texas" (Scurry Co. V.F.)
Bergland, Harry "May the Third, Eighteen Hundred and Eighty Four" (San Angelo Standard Times V.F.)
Buxkemper, Susan "All Roads Lead to Exciting "Big B" (Runnels Co. V.F.)
Byrnes, Robert "Red Arroyo and Environs" (Red Arroyo V.F.)
Calley, Arita "Oil from the Howard-Glasscock Field" (Glasscock Co. V.F.)
Carlton, Charles "Fort Davis, Texas—Jeff Davis County First White Men" (Jeff Davis Co. V.F.)
Carmack, Pat "Underneath Texas" (Caves V.F.)
Clarke, Tom "Abilene—Heart of Texas" (Taylor Co. V.F.)
Collins, Brenda "George McCamey, Founder of McCamey, Texas" (Upton Co. V.F.)
Cook, Kristy "Pontotoc" (Mason Co. V.F.)
Corbell, Cydnie "Ozona—The Biggest Little Town in the World" (Crockett Co. V.F.)
Dillard, Sue "Caverns of Sonora" (Sutton Co. V.F.)
Galindo, Manuel "The City of Del Rio" (Val Verde Co. V.F.)
Garcia, Mary Helen "Big Spring and County" (Howard Co. V.F.)
Garza, Gloria "Barstow, Texas" (Ward Co. V.F.)
Higgins, Sara "Fort Clark, Texas" (Kinney Co. V.F.)
Hosea, James "Tornado" (Haskell Co. V.F.)
Ivy, Jana "Sweetwater, Texas" (Nolan Co. V.F.)
Kacal, Kenny "West Texas Boys Ranch" (West Texas Boys Ranch V.F.)
Kahlig, Joyce "The Veribest Community" (Veribest V.F.)
Kaufman, Michael "Attending High School in El Paso" (El Paso Co. V.F.)
Kerley, Beth "History of Coleman County 1850-1900" (Coleman Co. V.F.)
King, Donna "My Feelings of San Angelo in Regard to Other Towns" (San Angelo-History V.F.)
Kleine, Linda "Fort Stockton" (Pecos Co. V.F.)
Lawrence, Jim "Money and Politics Not New Problems" (San Angelo Standard Times V.F.)
Martin, Irene "Rankin, Texas" (Upton Co. V.F.)
McClung, Neill "The Rise and Fall of Ben Ficklin" (Ben Ficklin V.F.)
McKnight, Betty "Highlights to Remember—Rowena, Texas" (Rowena V.F.)
Meador, Paul "San Angelo Weekly Standard May 25, 1901" (San Angelo Standard Times V.F.)
Mills, Mary "Kermit" (Winkler Co. V.F.)
Mills, Mary "Weslaco" (Hidalgo Co. V.F.)
Nielson, Corinne "Stonewall, Texas" (Gillespie Co. V.F.)
Pearce, Dedra "Garden City" (Glasscock Co. V.F.)

Perkins, Gwen "The King Ranch" (Kleberg Co. V.F.)
Pridemore, Jan "The Ozona Story" (Crockett Co. V.F.)
Reagan, Jamie "St. Lawrence, Texas" (Glasscock Co. V.F.)
Rodrigues, Manuela "An Autobiography of My Part of My Life" (About life in Hermleigh) (Scurry Co. V.F.)
Rodriguez, Maggie "Birthplace of Ally Oop: Iraan" (Pecos Co. V.F.)
Sanders, Donny "Nocona, Texas" (Montage Co. V.F.)
Schiller, Lola "Honey Grove East Texas" (Fannin Co. V.F.)
Schwertner, Teresa "Ballinger and County" (Ballinger V.F.)
Shahan, Kay "The Lost San Saba Mines" (Menard Co.-San Saba Mission V.F.)
Sharp, Mary "A Chinese Village Near San Angelo" (Chinese in San Angelo V.F.)
Sims, D.W. "To See a West Texas Town: Live in it, Leave it, Then Look" (About life in Bronte) (Coke Co. V.F.)
Sloan, Kathy "The Sloan Family in Texas As Told by Frank B. Sloan" (Sloan V.F.)
Smith, William Ray "Cowboys and the West" (Cowboys V.F.)
Ulmer, Lois "Life in a Small West Texas Town" (About life in Andrews) (Andrews Co. V.F.)
Vaguera, Mary "Del Rio—Consolidations in Schools" (Val Verde Co. V.F.)
Wallace, James "Sweetwater, Texas" (Nolan Co. V.F.)
Wezue, Nina (Untitled) (Texas Tech V.F.)
Williams, Pat "Community Profile of Snyder, Texas" (Scurry Co. V.F.)
Wilson, William "Trot-Line Fishing for Catfish in the Concho River" (Concho Co. V.F.)
Wood, Russell (Untitled) (Big Bend Area V.F.)

Other U.S. States Topics:

Anderson, Ronald "Shemya, The Black Pearl of the Aleutians" (Alaska V.F.)
Ayers, Linda "Texans in New York" (New York V.F.)
Barbee, Randy "Santa Fe" (New Mexico V.F.)
Clevenger, Fred "Lincoln County, New Mexico" (New Mexico V.F.)
Davis, Darlene "Texans in Erie, Pennsylvania" (Pennsylvania V.F.)
Hays, Harry "Woe is the Wily Williwaw" (Alaska V.F.)
Henderson, June "Texans in Washington, D.C." (Washington D.C. V.F.)
Hocking, Frank "Homestake—Black Hills, S.D." (South Dakota V.F.)
Lloyd, Roger "Texans in New York" (New York V.F.)
Teal, Martha "My True Winter Wonderland—Texas in Colorado" (Colorado V.F.)
Simmons, James "North to Alaska" (Alaska V.F.)
Winters, Ginger "A Trip to Carlsbad" (New Mexico V.F.)

Latin American Topics:

--- "Tarahumare Indians" (Of Mexico) (Tarahumare V.F.)
--- "Terrorism Acts in Guatemala" (Guatemala V.F.)
Burton, Don "The Tourist Attraction of the San Blas Island" (Panama V.F.)
Castillo, Mario "The Otonei, A Vanishing Tribe" (Mexican Indians) (Otonei V.F.)
Davis, Donna "Santa Elina, Mexico" (Mexico V.F.)
Hudson, Dorothy "Maracaibo, Venezuela" (Venezuela V.F.)
Kincaid, Russell "Mexico" (Mexico V.F.)

Middleton, Jane "Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico" (Mexico V.F.)
Pruitt, Glenn "Honduras" (Honduras V.F.)

Other Foreign Counties Topics:

--- "Apartheid, South Africa's Racial Policy" (South Africa V.F.)
Bales, Kenneth "Observations on Australia" (Australia V.F.)
Buhay, John "I Cover Japan" (Japan V.F.)
Canfil, David "Russian Intervention in Czechoslovakia-As Seen By a Texan"
(Czechoslovakia V.F.)
Chernick, Peter "My Most Memorable Tour—Sinop, Turkey" (Turkey V.F.)
Crider, Ann "Taiwan, Ilha Formosa" (Taiwan V.F.)
Doyle, Joan "Libya, Iran and Venezuela" (Venezuela V.F.)
Dringman, David "Pakistan" (Pakistan V.F.)
Franklin, Loras "The English as I Knew Them" (Great Britain V.F.)
Fry, Richard "A Texan in South Africa—South Africa: Apartheid" (South Africa V.F.)
Hademenos, Dena "Jorden" (Jorden V.F.)
Hayman, Russell "Morocco" (Morocco V.F.)
Hays, Harry "Libya—Land of Turmoil" (Libya V.F.)
Hazel, Geo. B. "Vietnam" (Vietnam V.F.)
Hoffman, Lee "Turkey" (Turkey V.F.)
Huber, Sondra "Crete" (Crete V.F.)
Kieras, Mary "Memories of Japan" (Japan V.F.)
Lopez, Michael "Madrid, Spain" (Spain V.F.)
Martin, Patricia "Italian Death Customs" (Italy V.F.)
McDonald, James Jr. "Reflections on a Visit to Turkey" (Turkey V.F.)
McSwain, Thomas "A Wilderness Canoe Trip-Texans in Canada" (Canada V.F.)
Pryor, Robert "Cambodia" (Cambodia V.F.)
Rees, Alan "Funtime Flagellation Festival in the Philippines" (Philippines V.F.)
Richards, Floyd "Athens—Europe's Friendliest City" (Greece V.F.)
Riddle, James "Okinawa" (Okinawa V.F.)
Smith, Kenneth "Pakistan—A Brief View" (Pakistan V.F.)
Spieker, Clarence "A Short Paper on Korea" (Korea V.F.)
Vincent, Drexell "India" (India V.F.)
Walker, Tina "Holy Land Tour" (Holy Land V.F.)